making branches in places like Mandis, Taluks|District headquarters, agriculture produce centres etc., and to open extension counters and to install safe deposit lockers.

(v) 49 Regional Rural Banks have been identified for comprehensive restructuring.

Acquisition of real estate by foreign banks

*140. SHRI JIBON ROY: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed foreign banks operating in the country to acquire real estate; and

(b) if so, how many banks have so far acquired real estate together with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that foreign banks are allowed to acquire immovable property in India only for the purpose of undertaking banking business and for housing their employees. Foreign banks are not allowed to acquire immovable property other than for their own use.

(b) RBI has reported that details of the properties acquired by foreign banks are not readily available as the data reporting system does not generate such information.

Modifications in the policies of privatisation of value added services

874. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom commission has decided to review and make necessary modification in the policies for and modalities of privatisation of value added services such as electronic mail, voice mail, satellite networks and audiotex;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the licences for electronics mail alleged that the D.O.T. was imposing unnecessary, unreasonable and unsustainable conditions and thus making it impossible for licence to operate the services as a viable business;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the out-come of a special meeting between the commission and repesentatives of industrial sector, recently in the month of January, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions have been modified|liberalised with a view to promote value added services.

(b) The details of old revised terms and conditions are given, in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) No Sir. However, some of the companies have made representations for liberalising the terms and conditions. A meeting was held with prospective service providers and based on their suggestions the terms and conditions were liberalised as already mentioned above. Four companies have already signed the licence agreement for Electronics Mail Service.

Statement

Details of Old and Revised Terms and Conditions

Old Terms & Conditions	Revised Terms & Conditions
1. *Electronic Mail Service*	
(i) The licence fee payable to DOT was Rs. 1500 per annum per subscriber subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 lakhs per annum.	(i) The annual licence fee has been revised to Rs. 25 lakhs per year for first two years; Rs. 35 lakhs per year for next two years and Rs. 50 lakhs for the fifth year.
(ii) Licence can provide service, only in the service areas for which licence has been granted.	(ii) Licensee can provide service anywhere in the country.
(iii) Only Electronic Mail Service.	(iii) The related services, such as EDI Data Bases, Store Forward Fax, File Transfer and Protocol conversion will be viewed as an extension of Electronic Mail Service.
2. *Voice Mail Service*	
(i) Licence fee was fixed city wise as follows:—	(ii) Licence fee has been revised to Rs. 15 lakhs per year for Delhi and Bombay, Rs. 10 lakhs per year for Calcutta and Madras and Rs. 5 lakhs per year for each of the other cities.
(a) Bombay —Rs. 40 lakhs.	
(b) Delhi —Rs. 30 lakhs	
(c) Calcutta —Rs. 15 lakhs.	
(d) Madras —Rs. 10 lpkhs.	
(e) Other cities —Depending on No. of working telephone connections.	
3. *Audiotex Service*	
	It was decided that department will not do the direct billing of subscriber, however, Audiotex will be allowed as a part of broad handed service with Voice Mail, on the same terms and conditions as Voice Mail.
4. *VSAT Base0 Service*	
(i) Licence fee of Rupees fifty thousand per VSAT subscriber, per annum subject to a minimum of Rs. 1.5 crores per year.	(i) The licence fee of Rupees fifty thousand per VSAT subscriber per annum, subject to minimum of Rs one crore for the first two years & Rs. 1.5 crores for the third year. Licence fee will be revtsed thereafter.